



The Rocky Mountain Poison Center

If your pet has come in contact with poison, call the Rocky Mountain Poison Center. The Poison Center can tell you over the phone if your animal should see a veterinarian. If so, the Poison Center can provide you with specific information to assist your veterinarian with your pet's care.

How pets get poisoned

Teething and carrying things in their mouths make pets especially at risk for poisoning. In addition, sometimes parasites and other factors cause animals to eat things that are dangerous. Thousands of pets are poisoned in Colorado each year by swallowing human medicine, insecticides, antifreeze, detergents, drain cleaners and other products commonly found in the home or garage.

Pet poison safety "do's and don'ts"

Do:

1. Ask for "safety-lock" tops on all prescription drugs.
2. Keep cleaners, bug sprays, medicines and other harmful products out of your pet's environment. If possible, keep the products locked up.
3. Only feed pet food to your pet. One ounce of Baker's chocolate can kill your dog! High fat foods can cause indigestion as well as damage to the pancreas. Examples of fatty foods are: peanuts, whole milk, ground beef, bacon, ham and giblets, dark meat and skin from poultry. Also, there have been reports of dogs suffering from kidney failure after eating large amounts of grapes or raisins.
4. When discarding household products, rinse containers and put them in a covered trash can to which your pet doesn't have access.
5. Keep your pet out of the area when using insecticides, pesticides and mouse traps.
6. Keep painted surfaces in good condition.

Don't:

1. Don't store potentially toxic products near your pet's food.
2. Don't give your pet human medicine unless a veterinarian says it's OK.
3. Don't leave household products and medicines unattended. If interrupted while using them, put them away so your pet can't get into them.
4. Don't put gasoline, bug spray, antifreeze or cleaning supplies in soft-drink bottles, cups or bowls that could attract pets.

Pets can get into things at any age!

Animals age 0 to 8 weeks

- start to explore home and yard
- learn about their environment by putting things in their mouths
- chew on things because they're teething

Animals age 9 weeks to 2 years

- curiosity is high; most at risk of being poisoned
- may wander from home, especially if not spayed or neutered

Animals age 25 months and up

- know where to find food and garbage, may stumble across toxic items
- overweight pets may eat potentially toxic items; if dogs overeat it can be life-threatening

Seasonal Dangers

Spring & Summer dangers

- Pesticides
- Fertilizers
- Antifreeze drained from cars and poured in the street or stored improperly
- Charcoal lighter fluid
- Outdoor plants and mushrooms
- Snake, spider and insect bites and stings
- Ticks

Fall & winter dangers

- Antifreeze (tastes sweet and even a little can kill a pet in 18 hours!)
- Carbon monoxide
- Black widow spider bites
- Plants and autumn berries
- Holly, mistletoe, glass ornaments, tinsel, ribbon and other holiday decorations
- Chocolate and other holiday foods

Follow this checklist to make sure your home is safe.



Kitchen

- Remove products like detergent and drain cleaner from under the sink.
- Remove medicines from counters, tables, refrigerator top and window sills.
- Put child safety latches on all drawers and cabinets that contain harmful products. They work for pets too.



Bathroom

- Regularly clean out your medicine chest. Flush old medicine down the toilet.
- Keep all medicine in original safety-top containers.
- Keep medicine, hair spray, powder, make-up, fingernail polish, hair-care products, mouthwash and other personal-care products out of reach.



Bedroom

- Don't keep medicine in or on dresser or bedside table.
- Keep perfume, make-up, aftershave, and other products out of reach.
- Don't store anything potentially toxic under the bed.



Laundry Area

- Keep bleach, soap, fabric softener and other supplies out of reach.
- Keep all products in their original containers.



Garage/Basement

- Keep bug spray, weed killers, gasoline, oil, paint and other supplies in locked area.
- Keep all products in their original containers.



General Household

- Keep beer, wine and liquor out of reach.
- Keep ashtrays clean and out of reach.
- Keep plants out of reach.
- Keep paint in good repair.

Emergency action in case your pet...



Breathes Poison:

Immediately get the animal to fresh air. Avoid breathing fumes. Open doors and windows wide.



Gets Poison on the Skin:

Flood skin with water for 10 minutes. Then wash gently with soap and water and rinse.



Gets Poison in the Eye:

Flood the eye with lukewarm (not hot) water poured from a large glass 2 or 3 inches from the eye. Repeat for 15 minutes. Do not force the eyelid open.



Swallows Poison:

Medicines: Do not give pet **anything** until you talk with the poison center or your veterinarian.
Chemicals or Household products: Unless your pet has passed out or cannot swallow, give water right away.

**After the Emergency Actions, Call
Rocky Mountain Poison Center**

1-800-222-1222

Veterinarian: _____

*Another quality health service brought to you by
Denver Health, your community health partner,
and the State of Colorado.*



DENVER
HEALTH



Uh oh. Poison!

Poison prevention for pets

Read this brochure for poison safety tips and call the Rocky Mountain Poison Center if you have a poison emergency or any questions. It's free and you can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
POISON
CENTER**

1-800-222-1222

www.rmpdc.org